

**Town of Sunset Beach
Monthly Council Work Session
April 21, 2015**

MINUTES

Members Present: Mayor Ron Watts, Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita, Councilwoman Carol Scott, Councilman Terry Johnson and Councilman Mike Williams

Members absent: Councilman Wilson Sherrill

Attorney & Staff Present: Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Rawls Howard, Planning Director; Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Lisa Joyner, Police Chief; Joe Smith, Detective; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Watts called the Work Session to order.

Draft Agenda Amendments

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADD A CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) TO THE AGENDA. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

Councilman Johnson voiced concerns with the Jaguar's Lair mediation delay. Susan Parker, Town Administrator advised that the mediation was delayed because the mediation attorney was unable to return due to inclement conditions which closed the airport. The mediation is rescheduled for May 6th.

Public Comments

None heard.

Presentation of the Draft 2015/2016 Proposed Budget

Bonnie Schwerd distributed the draft 2015/2016 proposed Budget to the Council and delivered the budget message. The proposed net operating budget totals \$5,834,663 and includes a tax rate per \$100 of valuation of 16.5¢. The Council will discuss the draft budget in detail during the April 28th, 29th and 30th scheduled Budget Work Sessions.

Consideration of Approval of Letter and Resolution Addressing Global Coastal Issues

Mayor Pro-Tem DeVita advised the a database containing names and addresses, by State, all of the Atlantic Coast Senators, Representatives, and Governors; and a database containing all of the North and South Carolina County and Municipal Governing Bodies. The US President's address is also included. The Council discussed that the letter, to be sent to both databases, will explain that the primary objective is to request that a task force be established to address the preservation, stability and safety of the ocean which is considered a National Treasure for us all. The letter also explains the resolution attached (to it) request support for such a task force to be formed. The Council offered assistance with the mailing process.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER AND RESOLUTION AND FOR BOTH TO BE MAILED TO THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES COLLECTED. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

Consideration of Approval of Donation Policy

Bonnie Schwerd advised that the amendments submitted by the Council have made to the policy.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DONATION POLICY AS PRESENTED. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

Technical Review Committee (TRC) Membership Discussion

Rawls Howard explained that in December 2012 when Council was adopting the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), a compromise was reached regarding plan review by the Planning Board. The Council agreed to amend the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to include that the Planning Board would only be required to review plans with more than 5,000 square feet and to appoint two (2) Planning Board members to the Technical Review Committee (TRC).

Howard advised that by removing the two (2) Planning Board members deems the TRC meeting not a public meeting and therefore no advertisement is required. As a compromise, Howard agreed to hold weekly TRC meetings on a scheduled day and time if needed that the public could attend.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO RESCIND THE PORTION OF THE UDO ADOPTION MOTION MADE DURING THE DECEMBER 3, 2012 MEETING THAT AMENDED THE UDO BY INCLUDING THE MORE THAN 5,000 SQUARE FEET PROVISION FOR PLAN REVIEW REQUIREMENT AND TO APPOINT TWO PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS TO THE TRC COMMITTEE. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

Public Comments

Richard Hilderman 407 37th Street – Offered to volunteer for the Town with the upcoming mailings; questioned the 3% merit pool process and what would be the maximums per person per department.

John Corbett 423 Sailfish Street – Thanked the Police Chief for the email concerning the recent break-ins on the island and requested in the future these emails be sent through the website to ensure the most citizens are made aware.

Rich Cerrato 517 Twisted Oak Lane – Questioned the proposed tax rate increase justification.

Closed Session

MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) TO CONSULT WITH THE TOWN ATTORNEY. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MADE A MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY 4-0 VOTE.

Parker advised that Council received legal advice concerning pending litigation and the Council instructed the Town Attorney and Staff as to how to proceed.

Adjournment

COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 21, 2015 COUNCIL WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 4-0 VOTE.

Town of Sunset Beach

Ron Watts, Mayor

Submitted by:

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

*The April 21, 2015 Work Session minutes were approved by Council during the May 11, 2015 Regular Meeting.